



Little People, **BIG DREAMS**™

Oprah Winfrey

Educator Guide

Little People, BIG DREAMS: Oprah Winfrey

By Maria Isabel Sánchez Vegara

Illus. by Sera Latterell

\$15.99 US / \$19.99 CAN

978-1-836-00750-0

Ages 6-8, HC, 7.7 x 9.5in, 32 pages

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Book Summary:

Oprah Winfrey was born in 1978 in Mississippi but moved around a lot as a child, eventually settling with her father in Nashville, Tennessee. It was there that things began to change for Oprah, as she discovered a love of public speaking and earned a scholarship to college. After graduation, she became the first Black woman to read the evening news on a local TV channel and then co-hosted a talk show. She eventually got her own talk show, which ran for 25 years and inspired viewers across the country to be the best version of themselves. Oprah has had many other accomplishments, such as starting her own production studio and book club, as well as a school for girls in South Africa. Oprah continues to be an inspiration because of the way she uses her voice to model courage and compassion.

Essential Questions:

1. Who were some influential people in Oprah's life when she was a child?
2. What important role did reading play in Oprah's life, both as a child and as an adult?
3. What was the path that led Oprah to having her own talk show?
4. How does Oprah use her influence to inspire others?
5. Why is Oprah Winfrey a dreamer we should all know and admire?

Classroom Discussion Topics:

1. As a child, Oprah loved books (p. 2). Ask students to name their favorite book(s) and share what they like about it. Ask them to consider things like the story, the illustrations, the ending, the subject matter, etc.
2. When she was little, Oprah showed a gift for public speaking when she would read Bible verses aloud at church. Ask students to identify something they are particularly good at and share with the class. Examples could include physical and emotional skills, like playing sports, problem-solving, making friends, painting, etc. What do they think makes them so successful at their skill? Have they always been good at their skill, or did it take practice?
3. Oprah knew from a young age that she loved performing and telling stories. As an adult, Oprah turned her passion for storytelling into a career! Ask students to describe their dream job. Do they know anyone with this job? What skills does a person need to do this job well? What are the first steps they could take to getting their dream job?
4. Oprah shared about her difficult past on her TV show, and recalling such a personal story in front of millions of viewers took a lot of courage (p. 15). Ask students to define the word "courage" and share what they think it means to be brave. For students who are comfortable sharing, can they give the class an example of a time when they showed courage?



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Student Activities:

1. When Oprah was a young girl, she enjoyed reading books aloud to her farm animals (p. 2). As she grew older, she became more confident in her voice by reading Bible verses at church (p. 5) and eventually won a public speaking contest (p. 9). Invite students to practice their own public speaking skills by bringing in their favorite book from Discussion Question #1 and reading one or two lines out loud to the class. Encourage students to compliment each other on their performances.
2. Oprah became the first Black woman to read the news on a local TV channel in Nashville (p. 12). Divide the class into groups of six or eight students each and have them develop and present news items for each other. Each group can have a few writers with two newscasters who all rotate to ensure everyone gets a chance to participate. Each news segment presented should be at least 30-60 seconds long so writers can have a chance to get creative!
3. Oprah named her production studio "[Harpo](#)" because it is her name backwards (p. 18). Show students the studio's logo, have them write their own name backwards on a piece of paper, and then ask them to design their own logo with crayons and markers. As they develop their logos, encourage students to talk amongst themselves about what they would use their logo for.
4. On pages 19-20, readers see a scrapbook of some of the highlights that occurred over the years that Oprah's talk show was on the air. Ask families to send in 3-4 pictures of highlights of their child's life, ensuring the years are included. Let families know that the pictures will be used for a craft project, so they shouldn't send originals. Provide students with a variety of paper, stickers, and other craft materials so they can create a scrapbook page like the one in the book.
5. At the end of the book, the author says that Oprah shows us the power of planting seeds of courage and kindness that can later grow into something beautiful (pg. 25). Using the attached templates, pre-cut up to four leaves for each student and provide them with a blank piece of paper. Have students write an inspirational word or phrase on each leaf. You can offer suggestions like courage, kindness, bravery, friendship. Ask students to write a few sentences on their piece of paper about why they chose the words they did and what the words they chose mean to them. You can even create a classroom Kindness Tree using these leaves and display them on a bulletin board!



Guide created by Stephanie Villanova



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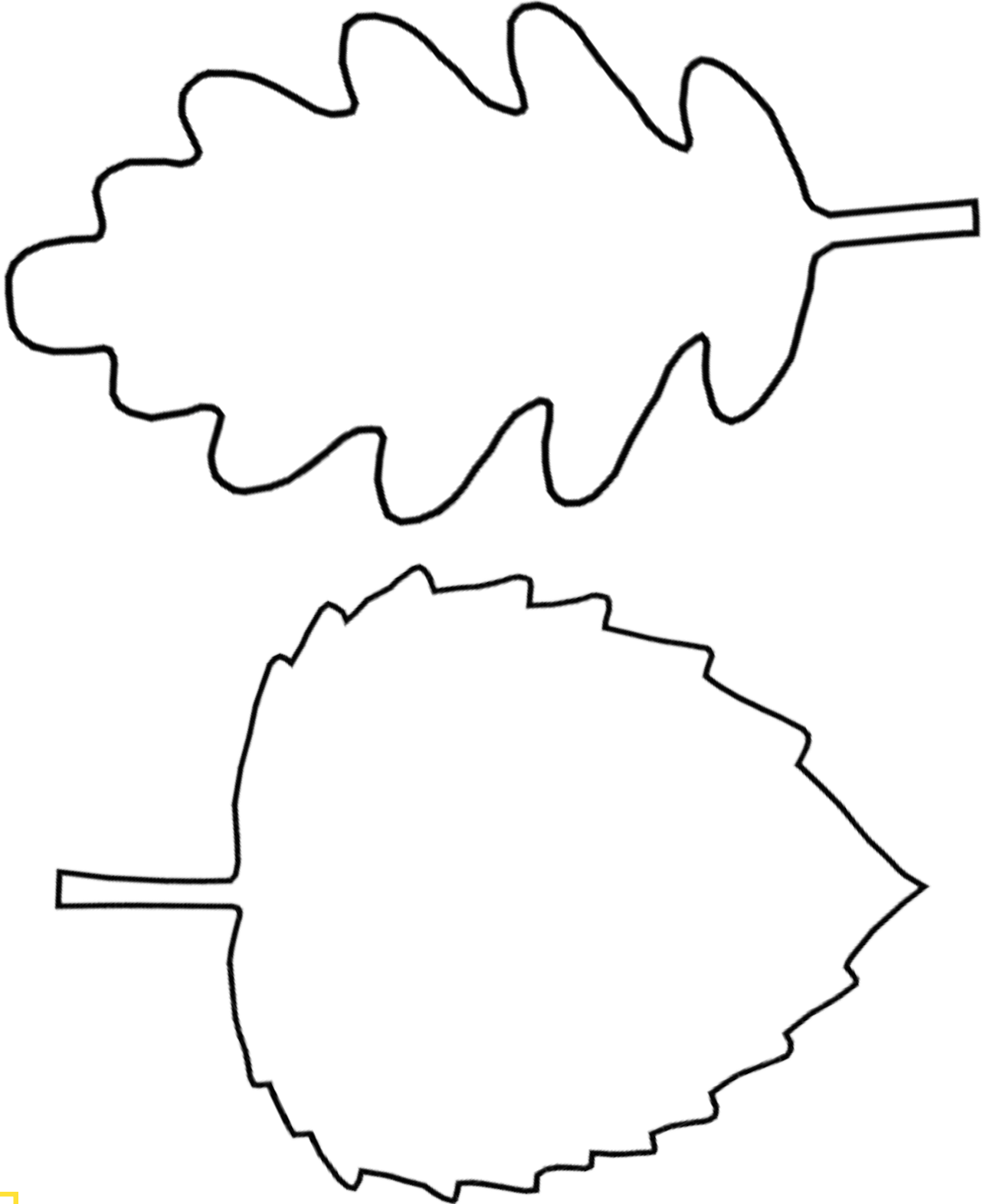
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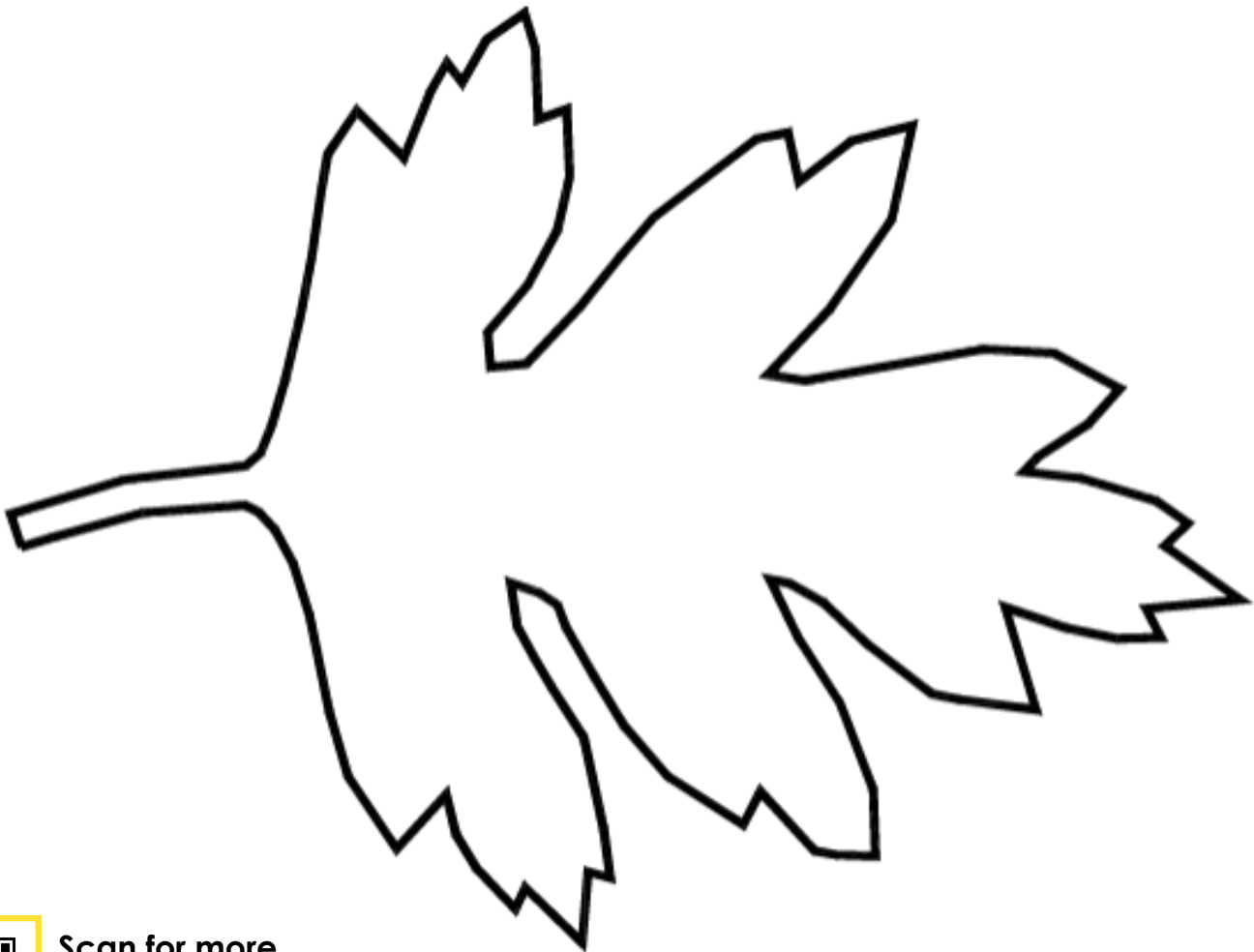
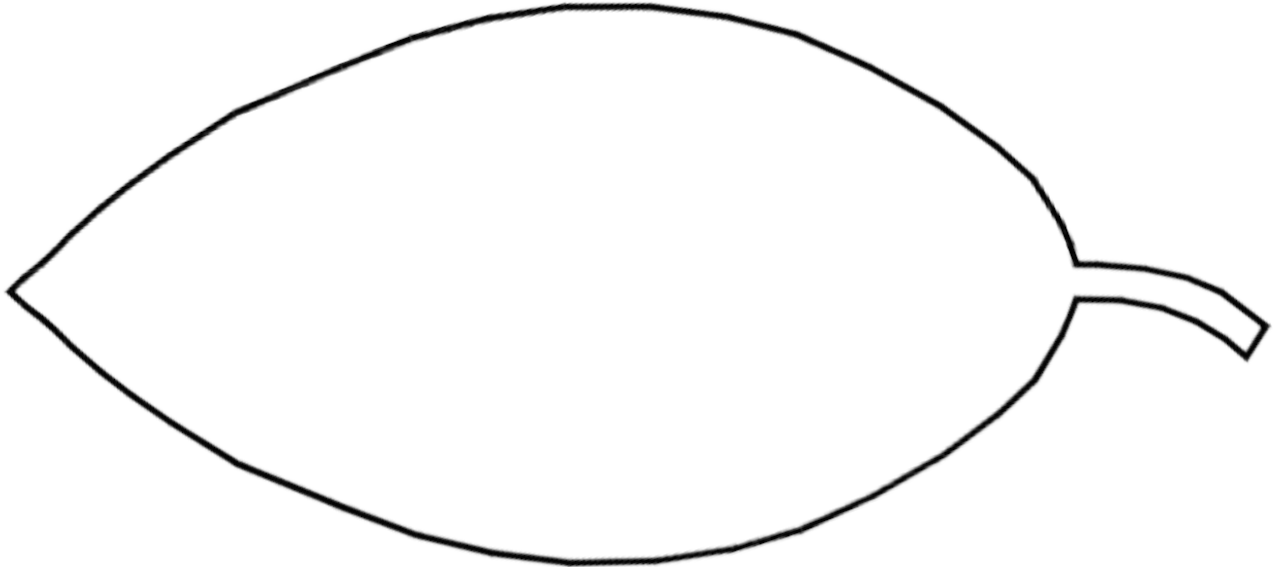
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